

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
August 14-15, 2003

The August meeting of the State Board of Education was held in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. The following Board members were present: Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Charles Edwards, Jr., Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Greg McClain, Don Roby and Kay Wagner. Also present were Department Director Ted Stilwill and Department staff members Gail Sullivan, Lee Tack, Carol Greta, Kathi Slaughter, Beverlee Adams, Judy Jeffrey, Janice Friedel, Evelyn Anderson, Bill Silag, Dale Gruis, Eric Heitz, Jan Huss, Tom Anderson and Laurie Phelan. Also present were: Dr. Robert Martin and Tom Paulsen, Governor's Council on Agricultural Education, Kathy Hanlon, Legislative Service Bureau, Dr. Robert Paxton, President, Iowa Central Community College and Virginia Vance, community member.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Director Stilwill reviewed the change requiring a revised agenda. He also handed out information and discussed how Iowa Code Chapter 21 could be implemented for the Board to go into closed session for some appeal decisions.

It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Sister Jude to approve the revised agenda as written.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Reports

Sally Frudden – No report.

Don Roby reported that Northeast Iowa Community College was working on passing a local levy extension. He briefed the Board on the Community College Council meeting and the recommendations that would be coming to the State Board for approval.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick – No report.

Greg McClain indicated that the draft of the NASBE Finance and Audit Committee budget report was being prepared. He said the report would be presented to the NASBE Board in October for approval. McClain reported that Iowa was in good standing with their dues.

Kay Wagner reported she had attended the IACCT Conference as a representative of the State Board and had heard a great luncheon speaker, Max Collins, a past community college graduate.

Charles Edwards – No report.

Gene Vincent said that he had served on the Ted Davidson Award Committee and this year's award went to the Cedar Falls Community School District board. He indicated there were many good applicants and the major indicator for this award was accountability. Vincent said that last year's winner was Southwest Webster Community School board.

Vincent said the committee had had an opportunity to discuss priorities in school districts. Staff development was the number one priority that surfaced from all individuals in attendance.

Mr. Vincent also reported that he had been appointed by the Office of the Governor to serve on the Centennial Committee. The committee meets annually and has the interest off of \$1M in funds to award scholarships. The committee is comprised of the Governor and all living past Governors, one elected official and 2 persons appointed. They had 300-plus applicants and 30 individual scholarships were awarded.

Greg McClain asked about the new student member and Mr. Vincent reported that the new student member is in Kenya at present and he had been receiving e-mails and would start to forward those to other Board members.

Director Report

Ted Stilwill, Director reported on the following items:

- He and Jan Friedel had been invited and had participated in the Community College President's Retreat
- Teacher Quality Legislation
- Legislative Liaison applications being received to fill the vacant position

- Information request: Lawsuit filed – local option sales tax
- K12 Company program associated with Pocahontas Community Schools
- Postville Case – summary handout
- State Board Retreat Follow-up – Strategic Plan, components will be brought to the Board in September for review.
- State Board Conference Room – Input on new table design and reviewed the new technology and photos that had been added.
- Information on ACT Test Score Release
- Information regarding the NCLB Report Card Release

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The minutes of the June 5, 2003 State Board meeting were approved.

Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 21, Tuition Fee Established—State Mandated DUI Course was approved for notice of intended action.

Religious Groups Exempted from School Standards

Renewal requests for 35 religious groups requesting exemption from the compulsory education and school standards laws under Iowa Code section 299.24 were approved.

Appeal Decision

The following appeal decision was approved:

In re Grade Realignment. The decision affirms the April 2, 2003 decision of the Board of Directors of the South O'Brien Community School District to move its junior high students to the Paullina building.

Appeal Decisions

In re Mary Oehler, Kenneth and Marilyn Oehler v. Davenport Community school District, 22 D.o.E. App. Dec. 46.

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Don Roby that the Board move to closed session according to Code of Iowa, Chapter 21.51F.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Frudden, Edwards, Fitzpatrick, McClain, Roby, Wagner and Vincent. Nay: none
Absent: Montgomery and Billings.

Closed Session

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Frudden, Edwards, Fitzpatrick, McClain, Roby, Wagner and Vincent. Nay: none
Absent: Montgomery and Billings.

Motion: It was moved by Charles Edwards and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick to approve the proposed decision. Sally Frudden requested a roll call vote.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Edwards, Fitzpatrick and Vincent. Nay: Frudden, McClain, Roby and Wagner. Absent: Montgomery and Billings.

The motion failed and it was recommended the decision In re Mary Oehler be redrafted and brought back to the Board in September.

Appeal Decision

Carol Greta, the Department's administrative law judge, reviewed for the Board the proposed decision In re Colby Gibson. She indicated that the focus of the appeal was that the Appellant was seeking reversal of the April 23, 2003 decision of the local Board of Directors of the District to uphold the administration's conclusion that Colby had committed a second violation of the District's Good Conduct Rule as contained in the High School Student Handbook. Greta indicated the Appellant had filed a timely appeal to the Department on behalf of her minor son, seeking a dismissal of the Good Conduct violation.

The Appellant had argued that her son was deprived of full due process because the District did not implement a procedure it described in its student handbook. Greta felt, however, there was no evidence that the Team would have differed in its findings from the high school principal, superintendent, and local board. Also, Colby was not deprived of the next steps in the process, those of appealing to his superintendent and local board.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner that the Board approve the proposed decision In re Colby Gibson.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Governor's Council on Agriculture Education—Report to the State Board

Tom Paulsen, Agricultural Education Instruction, Carroll Community School District, and Dr. Robert Martin, Department Head, Agricultural Education and Studies, Iowa State University and Chair of the Governor's Council on Agriculture Education were present for this presentation.

Tom Paulsen stated that the Iowa Governor's Council on Agricultural Education was established in 1989 as a statewide advisory group appointed by the Governor. The Council is comprised of representatives from business and industry, farming, education, and agricultural agencies and organizations. Non-voting representatives come from a variety of agricultural stakeholder groups. The charge to the council was to study and make recommendations for the improvement of agricultural education in Iowa. Paulsen reported many activities had been organized and conducted in support of Agricultural Education in Iowa. Some of these activities include:

- Ag Education Summits I & II
- Grand Plan for Agricultural Education
- Public Hearing at Six Locations
- Survey of Agri-Businesses
- Annual Report of Student Work Experiences
- Guidelines for Agricultural Education
- Awards of Excellence Program
- Recommendation for Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs

The report shares a brief overview of the results of recent meetings held by the Council. It also includes a list of current members, materials developed by the Council and goals for 2003-2004.

Mr. Paulsen referred to the Annual Report of Career Experience Programs. He indicated that \$15,161,695 total dollars had been generated by students in supervised experience programs. Paulsen also pointed out the Iowa Data Summary that shared interesting statistics in proficiency of agriculture students in many areas.

Dr. Martin reviewed and handed out a brochure on High School Career Experience programs in agriculture. Martin explained that experience is one of the three main components in the Agriculture Education program at the secondary school level. He explained that career experiences in

agriculture are the actual, planned application of concepts and principles learned in agricultural education. In this program students are supervised by agriculture teachers in cooperation with parents/guardians, employers and other adults who assist them in the development and achievement of their educational goals. The purpose is to help students develop skills and abilities leading toward a career in agriculture.

Director Ted Stilwill acknowledged Dr. Martin and Tom Paulsen as well as Department staff on networking, being adaptive and business-oriented in promoting the field of agricultural education.

Kay Wagner indicated she felt it was frustrating for Iowa not to capitalize on what it does so well in agriculture. Board members were appreciative of the information provided in this report and for the positive direction in agriculture that was being encouraged in Iowa.

Sally Frudden asked what the Advisory Council felt the future of Ag Business was in Iowa. Dr. Martin, Chair of the Council, stated that the Council was very optimistic, especially when we can help young people see the opportunities that are explained very aptly. What Iowa needs to do is to help people recognize the opportunities and add value to agriculture which is shown in the bounty across the state.

Greg McClain complimented Dr. Martin on the excellent brochure provided on career clusters. He felt it was a superb example of diversity. Gene Vincent also commented that it was rewarding to have a talented instructor such as Mr. Paulsen in your community. It was evidenced in the reflection of student attitude and the respect that downtown businesses had expressed in the student work ethic and knowledge base.

Discussion of Economic Development with Mike Blouin, Director Of the Iowa Department of Economic Development

Ted Stilwill, Department Director, introduced Mike Blouin, Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Stilwill indicated that the State Board at the Retreat had made a strong commitment to embrace economic development and restructure their goals. The Board wanted to attach the concept that secondary and postsecondary education means that kids are ready to be successful. He stated that this is not only what kids need but what the state needs in terms of economic development.

Director Blouin indicated the Department of Economic Development is trying to get focused on new ideas and processes. A lot of money has

been spent the last few years figuring out the focus areas – the growth areas in the economy in general and whether they fit in Iowa. Blouin reported that the Values Fund legislation is based on that premise—trying to grow the economy or recreating the economy. By creating wealth both in terms of company and employee; giving a reason for young people to stay here or persons to return to Iowa.

In concentrating on three clusters of business growth we are trying to do it in a way that identifies the strengths in those areas of growth in different parts of the state and build collaboratively on those potentials. The three business clusters are as follows:

1. Life science
2. Advanced manufacturing
3. Information solutions

The first project for the Values Fund was a \$10M infusion into a 2000 job growth for Wells Fargo Financial Mortgage. This is the largest project that the state has ever been involved in throughout all its organizational efforts in all the years it has been existence. This gives Iowans hope, opportunity and tax revenue.

Don Roby asked how school administrators and boards could be more directly involved in tying the education program in to the economic vitality of the community. Mike Blouin indicated that we don't necessarily follow district boundaries – it is more of a regional concept. He commented that the AEA delivery system has been a successful system. It is an example for other states to model. He discussed that “main street Iowa” needs to be looked at as a cluster of towns creating a broader customer base and sharing wealth.

AEA 14 Accreditation Report

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education stated that Chapter 273.9 of the Code of Iowa provided authority for the State Board of Education to set standards and procedures for the accreditation of AEAs. These standards and procedures are contained in Chapter 72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The AEA visit this year is the second round of AEA accreditation visits. This report focuses on the findings by the visitation team from the AEA 14 on-site visit.

Jeff Berger, Consultant, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education indicated that onsite visits are an essential part of the Area Education Agency accreditation process. AEA site visits conducted during the 2001-2002 school year reflect the “transition”

between old and new accreditation rules. He cited the following procedures applied:

- Assessment of the eight accreditation standards
- Assessment of each of the eight standards using the 11 Criteria for Standards for Services
- Assessment of the services provided for established agency-wide goals

Berger pointed out the areas of strength and the suggested areas of improvement for AEA 14 and recommended accreditation.

Motion: It was moved by Don Roby and seconded by Charles Edwards that Area Education Agency 14 be granted continuing accreditation pursuant to 281—IAC, Chapter 72.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: 281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 68, Iowa Public Charter Schools

Laurie Phelan, Administrative Consultant, presented this item to the Board. Ms. Phelan reported that the 2003 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1124 allows the State Board to select ten Iowa Public Charter Schools. A local school board in conjunction with the State Board is the only permissible chartering agent. She said a local district may apply to charter an existing school or to charter a new school within an existing school. The bill requires teachers to be appropriately licensed and be employees of the school district. Phelan indicated that state and federal funds will flow to the public charter school as if the building was a regular attendance center in the district. Each charter must be renewed after four years. The statute sunsets in 8 years.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner that the State Board approve 281—Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 68 Iowa Public Charter Schools for notice of intended action.

Greg McClain moved that an amendment be added to strengthen the diversity language in 281—Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 68, Iowa Public Charter Schools. Charles Edwards seconded.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Friday, August 15

Community College Strategic Plan Update

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation reported that the community college strategic plan was approved and adopted by the State Board in December 2000. She indicated this report is in response to the State Board's Policy Development Agenda that stipulates an update will be provided on the community college strategic plan. The report provides an update of activities undertaken during FY03 by the community colleges, jointly and at the local and state levels, to accomplish the goals and initiatives of the strategic plan. Friedel listed the five goals:

- Goal 1:** Iowa's system of community colleges will provide high quality, comprehensive educational programs and services accessible to all Iowans.
- Goal 2:** Iowa's system of community colleges will develop high-skilled workers to meet the demands of Iowa's changing economy.
- Goal 3:** Iowa's system of community colleges will maximize financial and human resources to assure provision of comprehensive community college services to Iowans, and to allow Iowa to compete on a national and international level.
- Goal 4:** Iowa's system of community colleges will demonstrate effectiveness and efficiency for achieving the system mission and goals.
- Goal 5:** Iowa's system of community colleges will recruit, enroll, retain, and/or graduate persons of under-represented groups (i.e., gender, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status) in all programs.

Friedel explained that each community college has implemented its own strategic planning process, linking assessment to planning and planning to budget. Each community college monitors its progress toward attainment of its college goals and objectives, and provides regular updates to its board of directors. She said the local community college goals and objectives are consistent with the statewide strategic goals and initiatives. The community college mission is examined and revised or reaffirmed on an annual basis. These community college plans are submitted annually to the Department.

Dr. Friedel recommended that the State Board approve the strategic plan report as written.

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Charles Edwards that the report “Shaping the Future: A Five-Year Plan for Iowa’s System of Community Colleges” be approved.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Community College Participation Report

Director Stilwill reviewed the Board request for additional information on gender equity in career and technical education programs. In the spring of 2002, a report was given to the State Board on the enrollment trends to date and at that time the Board had requested an update in a year.

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation introduced Jan Huss, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education who was instrumental in putting this information together. Ms. Huss reported on the information regarding the participation and success of women and minority group members in community college programs that was included in this report.

Huss pointed out that the enrollment in community colleges is a matter of individual student choice. Though the community colleges have undertaken a variety of recruitment and marketing strategies, as well as professional development activities for faculty, individual student interest, and capabilities are both factors influencing program enrollment and completion. Ms. Huss indicated that the time period covered in this report precedes the development of the community college statewide strategic plan Goal 5. Goal 5 was approved six months ago, and although the colleges may have had an opportunity to implement new activities specific to this statewide initiative, their effect on student enrollment has not yet been determined.

Board members appreciated receiving this updated information and the process put in place for gathering more detailed data.

Iowa Central Community College Accreditation Report

Evelyn Anderson, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges introduced Dr. Robert Paxton, President, Iowa Central Community College who was also available for discussion of the Iowa Central Community College accreditation report.

Ms. Anderson reported that the Department of Education had conducted this accreditation visit from April 27-30. She indicated there were

several other documents available that supported the information in the submitted report. This information was available to the Board at their request. Anderson acknowledged the team that participated in the on-site visit. The three specific recommendations that were reviewed during the visit are as follows:

Recommendation 1: The Board of Directors should review the procedures regarding student records and transcripts and develop Board policy on the security of student records and student transcripts. The Board minutes should reflect the Board actions taken in response to the recommendations about student records and student transcripts. The minutes should also include any data or summary reports taken before the Board.

Recommendation 2: Iowa Central Community College Computer Services, a division of the Registrar's Office, should develop a standard operating procedure manual regarding computer procedures, including, but not limited to, security, access, historical data support, and all related activities.

Recommendation 3: Iowa Central Community College staff, in conjunction with the college's Board, shall conduct on-going Instructional System and Process Improvement Team research to determine the impact of the present Board approved procedures and future Board approved policies related to student records and student transcripts to determine if the Board's actions through policies and procedures regarding student records and student transcripts continue to be effective.

Dr. Robert Paxton, President, Iowa Central Community College, thanked Ms. Anderson and the review team for their cooperation and the work they put forth during the visit, and afterwards. He felt that the final document was one that the college could use over the next few years to improve their processes. Paxton pointed out that he felt one of the key strengths was the college relationship with area high schools and helping students that are in the top 25 percent of the class get started with college courses and technical programs. He said the college serves as a conduit with business and industry so that the needs of the student, employee and employer are being met and it encourages people to stay in the local area.

Evelyn Anderson indicated that the review team was recommending that the accreditation report as submitted for Iowa Central Community College be granted continued accreditation, contingent upon completion of the three recommendations.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Charles Edwards that the State Board approve the accreditation report as submitted and that Iowa Central Community College be granted continued accreditation, contingent upon completion of the three recommendations.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Director Ted Stilwill handed out the proposed agenda topics for the September meeting.

President Vincent declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Gene Vincent
President

Ted Stilwill, Director and
Executive Officer

